

Wyoming transmission agency meets with wind energy developers

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The Wyoming Infrastructure Authority is meeting with wind developers Thursday as part of its effort to obtain support for two major interstate power lines that would run from Wyoming to Colorado and **Utah**.

The proposed lines, the TOT 3 project to Colorado and the Wyoming-West project to Salt Lake City, would help utilities as far away as California tap Wyoming's wind resources, Steve Waddington, executive director for the WIA, a state agency created to help develop interstate transmission lines, said in an interview Thursday.

The meeting with wind developers follows on a similar meeting in Denver in mid-March with the Interwest Energy Alliance, a group representing renewable developers.

The WIA, with its project partner National Grid, this week filed right-of-way applications with the US Bureau of Land Management for the Wyoming-West project, Waddington said. The 500-kV project is designed to deliver renewable and coal-fired generation to utilities in the Southwest.

The WIA is in talks with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power about the possibility of the municipal utility agreeing to buy output from the transmission line, Waddington said. If the roughly \$500 million project is approved, construction could begin in late 2009 and be finished in 2012.

The WIA envisions building the TOT-3 project in two phases, Waddington said. The first step would be to build a 345-kV line about 175 miles, which would be capable of delivering 800 MW of wind generation to Colorado, he said. The project could be built by 2010.

Colorado Governor Bill Ritter Tuesday signed a bill to double the state's renewable portfolio standard to 20% by 2020. The WIA is to hold an open season on the project this year for capacity on the line, Waddington said.

The WIA is also involved in the TransWest Express project, a 500-kV proposed line from Wyoming to Arizona. Project participants include WIA, National Grid, Arizona Public Service, Tucson Electric Power and Southern California Edison. The group had planned to finalize a participation agreement by the end of 2006, but is waiting about six months to give PacifiCorp time to decide if it wants to join the effort, Waddington said. --Ethan Howland, newsdesk@platts.com Bottom of Form